

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilman Michael Baker
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	Tony Flowers, Police Chief
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	Trey Cooper, Fire Chief
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
James Brogdon, City Attorney	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guest.

2. PRAYER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady led the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed citizens, guest and the press.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting March 10, 2020 & Special Meeting March 18, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve minutes from February 11, 2020.

The motion carried.

5. APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor stated that for the month of **April** we are going to recognize all of the employee because we all have been working tremendously hard and all have been doing thing we don't usually do in this crisis, and some are having to work from home. He also appreciate everything everyone is going to make sure our city government continue to function.

6. 1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 20-05, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING AND IMPOSING A DAILY CURFEW

Mayor stated that as we know the Governor has issued a stay home or go to work to limit groups from social gatherings to three people or less. We are finding that due to the COVID-19 and the Governors orders we have a number of Citizens that just don't want to abide by the Governors ruling so we find it necessary to put in act a curfew beginning at ten p.m. in the evening and ending at six a.m. Mayor stated that we have individuals that get off at seven o'clock so if they need to pick up some medicine, and or groceries then they could as well. He informed Council that what will happen is the curfew will be in act for a 14 day period and if the Governor still has the work or stay home we will renew for another 14 day period.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson that we and adopt a curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. to fortify with the Governor mandate. Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that he is highly opposed of the 10 p.m. and prefer 7. Councilwoman Tassie stated that she do agree but she would like to see the time earlier than 10 p.m. with respect that people have to get to work. She also has a concern for the people that are not necessarily working. Mayor did roll call vote and they are as follow Councilman Ralph Atkinson; yes, Councilman Ronald Atkinson; yes, Councilman Michael Baker; no, Councilman Joseph Frazier; no, Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt; yes, Councilwoman Tassie Lewis; yes, and the motion carried.

7. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 20-02, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE HOSPITALITY REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor stated because we do not know how the world and the economy will be going in the next few months we are doing a preliminary reading on the 1st reading on the Ordinance for adoption of our budget, hospitality, and stormwater fee. Not knowing how the world and the Government shut down we are trying to get ahead of the curve on our budget. Some of our numbers may be down because the restaurants are closed, but we just to go ahead and get the first reading of the hospitality, budget, and stormwater fee. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, for the 1st reading on Ordinance 20-02, an Ordinance to appropriate hospitality revenues for the City of Marion for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.*** The motion carried.

8. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 20-03 AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Ronald Atkinson on the Ordinance 20-03 to set millage to raise funds and adopt the budget for the City of Marion, Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The motion carried.

9. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 20-04, AN ORDINANCE TO APPRIOPRIATE AND ESTABLISH A STORMWATER UTILITY REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR**

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier on the Ordinance 20-04 to establish a stormwater utility revenue for the City of Marion for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The motion carried.

10. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Operations

Mr. Alan updated on a couple of things. Due to COVID -19 we are suppling all the departments with the proper PPE's and keep meeting with the departments through teleconference and passing the word on to make sure our employees stay safe. We have additional PPE's ordered and some more should be in the end of this week to make sure all our departments are protected. We have started with our grass letters and we have probably over a hundred already sent out and have already seen some compliance.

Miscellaneous

We are still under our modified operations, but all of our operations are still functioning.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney stated that he has just been trying to look from a legal stand point at the Governor's orders has been providing a lot of questions and if any of the Councilmembers or Mayor have any questions feel free to reach out with questions.

12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor stated that he would like to thanks the Councilmembers for passing the curfew and he thinks that was much needed to make sure we help flatten the curve, because we all know that social distancing is the way to do that. But also he wants to reiterate that as we have seen on the news and national news on places of worship. Mayor stated that to please keep in mind that places of worship are exempt, and the City of Marion knows that they are exempt. We know that we should be social distance. Mayor mentioned that if our churches want to have church services by all means they can have church services. If they want to have church that is there first amendment right and we are going to honor that first amendment right. We do have Chief Tony Flowers and Mayor stated that he is going to kind of give us an update on some things that has been happening.

Chief Flowers stated that we had a homicide. He stated that as of Sunday an individual has been locked up for murder. He is actually meeting with

SLED the afternoon of the Council meeting and get together tomorrow afternoon with the task force and use their resources with the FBI if they have to. Chief stated that we also had a shooting and somehow it was related to the shooting on Friday night but we don't know. Guy shot into some apartments in Rosewood Saturday night. Nobody was hurt but we did make an arrest. Chief spoke to few persons in the community because they had some concerns about some things and he thinks that after talking with them it kind of eased there mind. He said if anyone have some concerns about anything in there districts tell them to call him and he will stop by the house and talk to them. He do have the Drug Unit as well as the Sheriff Department to patrol some areas. He also stated that the last couple of nights; knock on wood, have been quiet. Brief conversation about Chief phone number was discussed and calling 911.

Chief Trey Cooper talked about COVID-19 and the Fire Department. Chief said that obviously it is a different world, and he has limited the people that can come in to the fire department. Basically the office is locked so people can talk at a social distance through the bay doors. As far as the PPE we are good stated the Chief, and for the future they have not been going through the PPE as fast as they thought. Marion is being kind of light compared to some of our neighbors thank the good Lord. Other than that we are just making sure we disinfect everything and stay healthy and give everyone the best service we can, stated Chief. Chief wants to remind that the normal emergencies are happening without COVID-19 are still happening folks just do not want to go to the hospital because they are scared. Chief stated that

we do not need to be scared to go to the hospital because the hospital is doing the best that they can to keep everybody safe.

Mayor followed up and stated that every morning at 10 a.m. Alan and he sits in on a state wide conference call that range from 30 to 45 minutes.

Mayor informed that state wide we have 3,553 of COVID-19, 93 deaths, and drawn down to Marion County we had 6 reported cases one death, and do not know of any confirmed cases in the City limits.

Mayor is arranging a meeting with clergy for next Wednesday after the meeting for the Community involvement. Council members will get an invite at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym because it's only going to be about 20 people and the tables and chairs will be spread out so we will be social distance.

We are working on Herb Levy Rd on the back side of Door of Hope Church. Mayor stated that there is a lot of debris and it's affecting our drainage. We are working on that and hopefully that will alleviate some of the water in road and church as well. We have started cutting grass and over a 100 letters sent out and some of the people are starting to cut the grass.

Mayor stated the storm the other night from the meeting damaged some things and trees fell and we still have a lot of work to do.

The concert that was scheduled start in April and May summer concert has been canceled and as well as anything else we had scheduled in the City of Marion. All of our rental and everything for the months of April and May. Our Foxtrot that is scheduled for mid-May has been canceled. Mayor spoke with Regina and decided to cancel. As for City Hall we have some individuals that are working from home. Our recreation is pretty much

closed down. We had as many as two people to a truck and now we are down to one per truck. We have hand sanitizer and spray to spray on the material and wipe down the truck as well. They have PPE's and so Mayor stated that we are doing everything that we can and constantly stressing social distancing and if you are not feeling well do not come in.

As many may know we have our land fill that is a recycling land fill which we have to continually turn those piles of debris so they can continually heat up. Mayor stated well our track hoe that we have is a 1991 track hoe and it's about to see its better days. It is not running right now, and we are hoping that it just going to be a wire issue but it is a possibility that it could be a computer issue. We are kind of looking at a repair to kind of get it running. Mayor stated that he is getting some prices but this is something unfortunately that we want and need but we are kind of in the category that we got to have it. We got to have it to properly work the landfill and we do not want to have DHEC to come in and shut down the landfill. Mayor stated that he will get back with us with possible bids, prices. The good news right now is that we can get some good prices such as forty to fifty thousand dollars because they are not selling a lot of track hoes right now.

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker stated that he thinks that he has taken care of most of his during the month. He stated that the only reason that he voted against the curfew is because he would of like to have seen it earlier instead of ten o'clock.

Councilman Joseph Frazier:

Councilman Frazier would like to thank Alan for all that he has done in his area, and other than that everything is alright. The young children congregating is crazy and that is the reason that he voted against. Mayor stated that we do have an extra Officer working on that night shift, so that should help a little bit.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson:

Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he would just like to thank Mayor and both the Chief's for all that they are doing and Alan he appreciate all the work.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson:

Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he appreciate everyone all the City employee's and most appreciate the leadership we get from City Hall.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that she would like to thank everyone for all efforts to maintaining the safety and concerns of the citizens. To her constituents she would like to thank for leadership and cohesiveness in working together. Her concern for the curfew was earlier time and that can be discussed at a later date. She is concerned about the safety of everyone. Middleton Street has a lot of complaints and the incident that happened there. Also has got complaint about the lights over there as well. She stated

that she forgot to mention it to Alan as he has been really good about that. Mayor mentioned that all the lights will be LED lightening. Thank you for helping out last week.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt stated that his concern about the curfew as well is that everyone make sure it goes well. He mentioned that if we could go with earlier time it would be great and he is not sure if we could. Alan you have always been there and have been here a long time and knows the ins and outs of things and then the great Mayor thank you for making sure everything is ran well.

Mayor Ashley Brady:

Mayor just wanted to reiterate that the curfew is due to Governor's order on COVID-19, and we want to flatten this curve and stop the spread. The order is for us to go to work or stay home and that is how we need to address it to flatten this curve of the virus.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to Adjourn.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk

Taped: April 14, 2020